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Applicant : TERASHIMA et al.
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Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of this Continuation Patent Application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Twice Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a base apparatus which includes a first sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically and performs [...] a first processing for a sheet traveling along said first sheet transporting path; and

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and includes a reading element,

wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by

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